

Support of the Winter Haven EDC makes it possible to continue to be a strong, coordinated economic development engine for the community. Our collaboration and partnership with the business, city and county government sectors, as well as local individuals, creates a positive, quality growth for our community.

— Ingram Leedy, *Past Chairman*

Activities of Winter Haven Economic Development Council



The Winter Haven Economic Development Council...where our mission involves fostering community – identifying opportunities and harnessing strengths that result in creating a vibrant and sustainable economy. Our efforts attract investment and enhance collective prosperity in Winter Haven.

Contact us

Winter Haven Economic
 Development Council
 401 Avenue B NW
 Winter Haven, FL 33881
 U.S.A.

+1 863.837.5280

www.whedc.com
bruce@whedc.com
facebook.com/WHEDC

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

- Creates networking opportunities at bi-monthly board meeting with business, city, and education leaders.
- Explores relevant topics and links to business opportunities through sponsored educational events.
- Manages incoming leads from the Central Florida Development Council and regional EDC offices.
- Serves as liaison to developers, employers, and government.

DEVELOP TALENT PIPELINE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE

- Strengthens partnership with higher Ed institutions such as Polk State College and Florida Polytechnic University.
- Advances internship development programs and real world experience opportunities linking business to a highly trained workforce.
- Advocates for educational resources to expand and advance local skills for new businesses and technologies.

PROMOTE COMMUNITY:

- Assisting site selectors and other developers with information about the community.
- Markets and promotes the City of Winter Haven in regional, national, and international outlets.
- Represents Winter Haven with regional and statewide organizations such as the Tampa Bay Partnership, Central Florida Partnership, and Department of Economic Opportunity.

“**The Winter Haven Economic Development Council’s mission** as a private non-profit consultant is to foster expansion of existing businesses and industry, attract new high-skill, high-wage business and industry; expand economic and job opportunities for Winter Haven residents; broaden the local tax base and enhance relationships with local, regional, state, national and international economic development organizations and agencies”

Benefits of Membership in the Winter Haven Economic Development Council



Connection:

- Consistent engagement at Bi-monthly board meetings
- Access to monthly economic development strategy session
- Invitation to local and regional economic and development activities and meetings

Education:

- Opportunity to participate in local and state advocacy efforts related to economic development activities
- Access to state and local elected officials in activities related to economic development
- Educational opportunities on economic development matters

Insight:

- Advance opportunity to participate in international trade missions
- Early awareness of real estate and business investments in Greater Winter Haven



Board of Directors

Chair **Dr. Eileen Holden**, Polk State College

Vice Chairman **Steve Elias**, Envisors Engineers, Planners, & Surveyors

Treasurer **Nicole Irby**, BB&T Bank

Secretary **Cindy Price**, TECO

Immediate Past Chairman **Ingram Leedy**, Protected Trust

Current Members:

A-C-T Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.

Citizens Bank & Trust

City of Winter Haven

City of Winter Haven (City Rep Ex-Officio)

Collman and Karsky Architects, Inc.

Everett Whitehead & Son, Inc.

Florida Labor Solutions

Florida Polytechnic University

Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce (Ex-Officio)

Main Street Winter Haven

Platinum Bank

Polk County Industrial Development Authority

Straughn & Turner, P.A.

Tampa Electric

The 6/10 Corporation

Tucker Paving

Wallis Murphey Boyington Architects, Inc.

Winter Haven Hospital

On the Pulse:

Featured in Recent Articles in Morocco, Albania & Brazil

Established Economic Development Relationships:

FL Department of Economic Opportunity

Enterprise Florida

State and Federal Elected Officials

Economic Council of the King of Morocco

Confucius Exchange in Chongqing China

Tampa Bay Partnership

Central Florida Partnership

Florida Chamber of Commerce

International Economic Development Council